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Date _____ Hour _____

English 10: AoW #4 - 2014

Directions: Mark the article to demonstrate close, active reading. Record your thoughts as you read by noting comments, questions, areas of confusion, connections, etc.

nytimes.com

(<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2014/09/28/is-a-global-climate-treaty-only-a-pipe-dream/real-progress-on-emissions-can-lead-to-a-global-pact>)

Real Progress on Emissions Can Lead to a Global Pact

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By Bruce Usher, the Elizabeth B. Strickler '86 and Mark T. Gallogly '86 Faculty Director of the Social Enterprise Program at Columbia Business School, and the director of Community Energy, Inc.

Don't give up on a global climate treaty, but don't count on it any time soon. I have seen these negotiations up close. Every country trots out its list of reasons why it needs more time to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and the negotiations become a race to the bottom.

A treaty will happen only when nations see they can meet targets without compromising growth. The U.S. has shown that can happen.

But once countries feel confident in their ability to simultaneously reduce emissions and grow their economies, they will begin to negotiate with the objective of reaching an agreement rather than negotiating to delay.

Which is why the extraordinary progress made by the United States in reducing emissions and growing our economy is critical to the negotiating process. Between 2005 and 2013, U.S. greenhouse gas emissions declined by 10 percent while real G.D.P. grew 11 percent. And more good news lies ahead with the expected closure of dozens of coal-fired utilities and a significant increase in automobile fuel economy on the back of strengthened regulations. Energy efficiency, renewable energy and natural gas all show the way to reducing emissions while adding jobs.

Unfortunately, the United States cannot solve climate change on its own, as the country now accounts for only 15 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions. A strong international treaty that limits global

emissions is absolutely necessary. But reaching agreement on a treaty will happen only when countries believe they can meet their targets without compromising economic growth, especially for developing countries whose citizens have yet to enjoy the prosperity of the West.

This is where the U.S. experience at reducing emissions can demonstrate the way forward for other countries. Providing visible evidence that economic growth and emissions reductions can go hand in hand will position the U.S. to lead the negotiations of an international treaty to address global warming. And during the long process of negotiating the treaty, the United States and other countries will make progress in transitioning to low-carbon economies. It's a two-track process that can lead to success.

Author's Purpose:

Intended Audience:

Author's Point of View on the Subject:

Read all of the opinion pieces on the "Room for Debate" page. Write your own opinion piece about the topic and save it in your shared Google Drive English 10 folder before class on Friday.